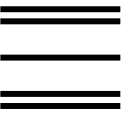


Please
place
stamp
here



Rep. Dawn Morrell

342 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

*Please join
Rep. Dawn Morrell and
Sen. Jim Kastama
for a Town Hall Meeting.*

Saturday, March 19th

Midland Elementary
2300 105th St E, Tacoma
10-11:30 a.m.

Puyallup Library
324 S. Meridian, Puyallup
2-3:30 p.m.

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Representative
Dawn Morrell

25th Legislative District

What kind of state do we want Washington to be? A \$2.2 billion budget deficit forces us to ask hard questions. Budget deficits in 2001-2004 led to 20,000 children losing health insurance, restricted college enrollments and higher tuitions, reduced nursing home payments for the elderly, suspended public education initiatives (I-732 & I-738) and other painful budget choices. What's next?

I'm co-sponsoring legislation to demand government performance audits, reduce state health care costs and force the state to prioritize spending. But these steps, though needed, can't fix the deficit by themselves. We must cut more services, find more revenues or both. This newsletter shows some choices I've made that can help. But I'd like your thoughts for the choices ahead.

Please help me represent you by using the tear-off card to tell me the kind of state you want Washington to be. We'll all have to live with the choices we make as a state. Help us make the best choices by sharing your priorities with me.

Sincerely,

Dawn Morrell

2005 Legislative Report

Representative **Dawn Morrell**

HEALTH CARE FOR WASHINGTON

Skyrocketing health care costs are hurting families, businesses and state budgets across the USA. I'm using my experience as a critical care nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup to guide my role as Vice-chair of the Health Care Committee. This year, I'm supporting several new ways to improve health care quality and fairness while reducing costs, including:

- Helping citizens and businesses buy prescription medicines from Canada, where the identical medicine is often 30 to 80 percent cheaper.
- Inviting private citizens, businesses and local governments to join the state in a Prescription Drug Purchasing Alliance. Bulk buying can save tens of millions of dollars.
- Enabling small businesses to enroll employees in the state's affordable Basic Health Plan.
- Offering tax credits to small businesses that provide employee health benefits.
- Combining public and private purchasing power to leverage "best practices" in health care, like private insurers and some other states do to improve quality while reducing costs.
- Ensuring that more workers in large companies receive health insurance benefits.

E-mail: morrell.dawn@leg.wa.gov

Toll-free legislative hotline: 1-800-562-6000

Hearing-impaired hotline: 1-800-635-9993

Olympia office: 360-786-7968

Regular mail: Rep. Dawn Morrell
342 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Committees: Health Care, *Vice-chair*
Economic Development,
Agriculture & Trade
Capital Budget
Rules

2005 PRIORITIES

I'd like your views on legislation I'm working on. These are just a few highlights. Future newsletters will describe other key priorities, such as helping military families, improving social services, higher education, and election reforms.

Government efficiency — The Independent Performance Audit and Priorities of Government bills I'm co-sponsoring will make state government more efficient, accountable and responsive. I'm proud they're supported by Democrats and Republicans.

Supporting our schools — Our teachers are working overtime to ensure that students succeed, but our kids need smaller class sizes and more classrooms to do their best. I am willing to be a leader and make the hard decisions needed to do this.

Guarding cell-phone privacy — Wow! My bill to prevent wireless companies from adding cell-phone numbers to a public directory without the customers' express permission has gotten amazing public support. Thank you!!

Jobs today, jobs tomorrow — The Public Works Trust Fund bill I sponsored two years ago created 5,000 jobs by helping communities build roads, sewers and other public works to strengthen local economies. I'm supporting a similar bill this year to create about 6,000 jobs through low-interest loans to local governments.

Stopping the meth epidemic — Other states have sharply reduced meth-labs and related crimes by restricting sales of chemicals used to make meth. Oklahoma cut meth labs by more than 60 percent! Republican Rep. Tom Campbell and I are sponsoring similar anti-meth laws for Washington.

Tax-relief for more jobs — Big businesses get tax breaks to create jobs. Why not small businesses? I'm proposing tax benefits to help small businesses create good jobs with benefits and upgrade business technology. This relief may not pass this year, due to the deficit. But public hearings on my bills have already highlighted the needs of small businesses.



YOUR VIEWS

What kind of Washington do you want?

Please tell me what budget and revenue choices are most important to you as a citizen of Washington. Simply fill out the card below, add a stamp, and drop it in the mail. Thanks!

Dear Dawn:

Sincerely,

Print name here: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

☐ Check here if you'd like to be e-mailed my weekly legislative e-memos.

"Your Top 5 Priorities"

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Cut along this line

